

Children's Newspaper

Threepence Weekly

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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TEACHING A TOWN THE ALPHABET

Number One Beggar of Itapemirim

THE Brazilian town of Cachoeiro do Itapemirim, has a name which takes quite a bit of spelling. Until recently, many of its citizens could not spell it, or indeed spell anything, for they were illiterate, "un-alphabeted" (analfabetos) as the Brazilians say.

In the last three years the un-lettered people of this town, the biggest in the State of Espírito Santo, have been making great efforts to learn to read and write their mother-tongue, Portuguese. Today many of them are proud to hang outside their doors this sign: Nesta casa nao ha analfabetos (In this house there are no illiterates). Often it is a challenge to their neighbours!

One Woman's Zeal

Their wonderful progress has been largely due to the enthusiasm of one young woman, Dona Zilma, called by her critics, "The mad woman of Itapemirim," or "The town's Number One beggar." She has earned her nicknames—given by those who were content to let things stay as they were—because of the zeal with which she threw herself into the Government's literacy campaign, opened three years ago, to reduce the 55 per cent illiteracy of Brazil.

In liberating her fellow-townsmen from the darkness of illiteracy Dona Zilma had to start from scratch. She had to find the teachers and the modest sums to pay them, and she had to find premises where grown-ups and children could sit side by side learning their letters.

They called her a beggar because of her importunity in collecting money for her grand campaign. On horseback and on foot she tirelessly travelled round the district begging people to give her the money to open to men, women, and children the magic world of books.

Thus she built up 32 literacy classes, often establishing them in rooms in factories and private homes.

She even arranged for prizes—old magazines for the men who learned to read and write, and dressmaking classes for the women.

Throughout Brazil, during the three years of the campaign, more than a million people have been taught to read and write.

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Complete story of Morgan of the Mounties

SHADOW OF THE LAW



Leopards in Two Spots

KENYA farmers have petitioned the Government to pass laws for the protection of leopards, which are being hunted by men who sell their skins for making fur coats, handbags, and slippers.

But leopards, the farmers claim, play a part in the balance of Nature, for baboons and wild pigs have become a serious menace to crops in some districts.

Kenya's Game Department has now ordered that leopards may be killed only under licence, and that unauthorised slaughter will be severely punished.

But in the Cape Province a law has been made to encourage the hunting of leopards, which, the farmers argue, make the breeding of sheep and goats in mountainous areas almost impossible. There the State actually pays for every leopard skin handed in at local police stations, and ranchers train dogs specially for this type of hunting.

WHALE'S JAWBONE

LONDON workmen digging in the blue clay beneath the cellar of a building in West India Dock Road, Limehouse, have found the immense jawbone of a whale.

Experts say that it is probably 200 or 300 years old, but cannot say how it got there. It weighs about one and a half hundred-weight.

Years ago whalers used to come up the Thames to the docks, and many of them had whale jawbones slung to their masts. The one now found may have been brought ashore for some reason and dumped on the site before there was a building there.

Under the Counter

PEDESTRIANS using a new subway under the Great West Road at Isleworth, Middlesex, will be counted by an invisible ray.

Up Goes the Price of Elephants

COMMUNISM has even affected the price of elephants. A circus proprietor in Australia says that an elephant which he is having brought to Adelaide will cost more than £1000 to land, yet before the war his circus bought 14 elephants at an average price of £150 each. He says that the price of wild animals is high in Malaya partly because trappers fear the jungle while Communist bandits lurk there.

SNAKE IN THE BRASS

How to Save Money

MR W. M. Goosen, of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, has what he considers to be a thief-proof cashbox.

Some time ago he brought home a snake he had caught in the veld. Not having a box handy, he dropped the reptile into a tin in which he kept a few coppers.

Later in the day he heard yells coming from the kitchen, and found his native servant cowering in the corner. The cashbox was on the floor, the pennies were scattered under the table, and the snake was still curled up in the tin.

The experience convinced Mr Goosen that a box with a snake in it was the best place to keep money, and he has never lost any through theft since he started this novel system.

He even advises his friends to do the same, but so far nobody has followed his example. They would rather lose their money than have a snake in the house!

It was an anxious moment for these twins when their new two-seater pulled up right under the police officer's arm, and nearly ran over his foot!

AUTOMATIC SECRETARY

IN the mountainside workshop in the heart of the English Lake District, Mr Bill Stephens, who is in charge of the local electricity generating plant, spends his spare time constructing wonderful clocks and other timekeeping devices.

His latest invention is an automatic "private secretary" that may eventually save business men much loss of time and temper. It will "remember" a date or an engagement even if written down months before, and a man can refer to his engagements at any given time by merely touching a switch which sets a visible indicator into

motion. A bell continues to ring until the full list has been noted, or is no longer required.

A simple interlocking device lies behind this wonder, and it now remains for it to be developed on a commercial scale to be a real boon to business men.

Signatures in Stone

CERTAIN workmen are to carve their initials in stone on the first permanent building in Coventry's new city centre, the City Council having agreed with the contractors that this is a good way of encouraging pride of craftsmanship.

More Strength For the United Nations

ONE of the important results of the Korean war has been the determination of the United Nations to find ways and means of dealing with any similar outbreak of aggression.

It was the freedom-loving members of the United Nations whose efforts almost at the eleventh hour flung back the sudden challenge in Korea. Good generalship rather than foresight had turned the scale for them there, so when they met in the General Assembly at Lake Success their first task was clear: the object of their organisation was to prevent war and so far they had failed to take adequate steps for this purpose. Could they succeed where the League of Nations had failed?

Lessons From Korea

The surprise attack in Korea has taught some invaluable lessons. It has shown what forces were actually needed to help in curbing aggression, the extreme rapidity with which that help should be rendered, and consequently what short cuts in international procedure were needed to provide that help as quickly as possible.

A concrete plan was accordingly put before the Assembly by the U.S. Secretary of State.

His plan entailed the creation of a world Security Force composed of troops supplied by each member State of the United Nations. Such troops would be held in readiness for any call which may come along from any part of the world. Thus a disaster like that which all but overwhelmed Korea would in future be avoided.

Now an international force was envisaged in the Charter but its creation and use was allocated to the Security Council which, of course, includes the most powerful nations. Such action by the Security Council must be unanimous, any one nation being able to veto the proposals of the

rest. Fortunately for the world, Russia had been unable to veto the decision of the Security Council to send aid from the United Nations to South Korea because she had deliberately absented herself from its meetings.

This might not happen again, so the General Assembly set to work to shape Mr. Acheson's plan into an effective new instrument for securing that world peace which Russia herself declared to be her aim. Eventually, by overwhelming majorities, the United Nations arrived at the following decisions:

When a member of the Security Council vetoes speedy action against aggression an emergency meeting of the Assembly is to be held at 24 hours' notice in order that that body, in which there is no veto, can deal promptly with the situation.

A standing Peace Observation Committee of 14 members is to be set up to study threatening situations on the spot and report to the Security Council or the Assembly.

Force to Meet Force

Thirdly, member States should maintain specified armed forces in immediate readiness for United Nations service.

Finally, a Collective Security Measures Committee is to be created to report next September on methods for strengthening international peace and security. For, as Mr. Truman emphasised in his speech to the Assembly, the United Nations must provide a way of using their collective strength under the Charter to prevent aggression, as well as continually to strive for a genuine disarmament by all its members.

A Fijian Will Speak For Britain

WHEN the question of Britain's relations with her Colonial peoples comes before the United Nations a citizen of one of the Colonies assists the Mother Country to prepare her case. He is Sir Lalabalavu Sukuna, K.B.E. Secretary for Fijian Affairs, Fiji.

Sir Lala, who was born in 1888, was educated in New Zealand, and later studied at Oxford. During the First World War he served for a time in the French Foreign Legion and then assumed command of the Fiji Labour Force in France.

As a recruiting officer in the Second World War Sir Lala played a prominent part in raising the Fijian infantry battalions which served with distinction in the Far East.

A barrister of the Middle Temple, Sir Lala has a peace-time record as distinguished as that in war. Head of the Fijian community, and an expert on native tradition and customs, he has held many administrative positions, becoming Secretary for Fijian Affairs in 1945.

Nobody is better fitted than Sir Lala to speak for Britain's record of service to the native peoples under her care.

Your C.N.

THE Editor greatly regrets that owing to difficulties in production there has been a considerable interval since the *Children's Newspaper* last appeared.

HE also regrets that in spite of all the efforts which are being made to speed publication this C.N. and the next number or so may be a few days late in reaching you.

YOU can ensure receiving your copy as soon as each issue is published by placing an order with your newspaper to deliver *Children's Newspaper* each week until further notice.

WILL you please do this, and also ask your friends who may not have been able to obtain C.N. lately to do the same.

BRAVO, BRIAN!

WHEN Brian Close, 19-year-old Yorkshire cricketer, scored 108 not out against Western Australia in the first match of the M.C.C. tour he gained yet another distinction. He is the youngest player to be "capped" for England the youngest cricketer to perform the 1000 runs and 100 wickets "double," and the youngest Englishman to make a century in Australia.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

GOOD CAUSE

A record number of 50,000,000 Christmas Seals, to decorate letters and parcels, have been issued by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. The seals, which make no mention of T.B. and are designed in bright red and green, can be obtained from Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

When the engine of a fishing vessel broke down in a gale 20 miles from Durban, the crew, without wireless, were saved by a carrier pigeon kept on board to carry messages about catches to the vessel's owners. The pigeon carried an S.O.S. message to Durban.

The 1950 Nobel Prize for Medicine has been awarded to three scientists for their work on the drugs cortisone and ACTH, used for the treatment of rheumatic diseases. The three men are Dr P. S. Hench and Dr E. C. Kendall of the United States, and Dr T. Reichstein of Switzerland.



A cycle ride from Venice to his home in Wallasey was carried out recently by Aircraftman L. Harlow, who had been two and a half years overseas. He cycled 1000 miles in 15½ days.

Jubilee Symphony

The Australian Government are offering a prize of £1000 for a symphony celebrating the Jubilee of the Australian Commonwealth in 1951.

On November 21, thirteen scientists from six countries are to meet in Nairobi for discussions on how their sciences can benefit the African peoples south of the Sahara. The scientists represent Britain, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Belgium, France, Portugal.

An oak tree has been planted at Winchelsea to commemorate Mr Churchill's installation as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

Electrically-driven aluminium dust carts are to be tried out in Glasgow, aluminium being immune from corrosive attacks by acids in street refuse.

LONE VOYAGER

Sailing alone in the British yawl *Temptress*, Mr Edward Allcard reached the Azores from New York in 65 days. He sailed alone in the *Temptress* last year from Gibraltar to New York in 80 days.

Returning from an expedition to South-West Africa and Southern Rhodesia the Abbé Henri Breuil stated that he had seen rock paintings showing fair-skinned people. He believes that white people migrated from the Mediterranean region to southern Africa hundreds of years ago.

Brave Cub

Terry Edwards, an 11-year-old Wolf Cub of Barnsley, has been awarded the Scouts' Gilt Cross for saving a boy from drowning.

Brighton's Royal Pavilion will be furnished as in the Prince Regent's time for the Regency Festival to be held there next year from July 16 to August 25. Works of art from Buckingham Palace which were formerly in the Pavilion are being lent by the King and Queen.

At Covent Garden early next summer the new opera by Dr Vaughan Williams, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, will be performed for the first time.

Masons restoring the blitzed tower of Aust Church, near Bristol, have been using a faded 50-year-old picture postcard as a guide.

ROAD HOG

In Germany recently a wild boar running across the road caused two cars to collide.

Dr Ralph Bunche, whose grandfather was a slave in the U.S., has been appointed a professor at Harvard University. Dr Bunche, who is also Senior Director of the U.N. Trusteeship Council, was awarded a Nobel Prize for his work as mediator in Palestine.

A football without a lace has been invented and shown in London. The ball is blown up through a hole in the cover with a special pump. When the pump is withdrawn the hole seals automatically.

Among detachments marching to the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, November 12, will be representatives of the Fishing Fleets and the Merchant Navy, as well as those of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, the Army, and the R.A.F.

Dwindling Dobbins

Since the First World War the number of horses in Australia has fallen from 2,500,000 to a little over 1,000,000.

A 700-year-old custom of giving six horseshoes of Flemish war horses as quit rent for the site of a forge outside St Clement Danes Church in the Strand, London, was observed recently. The custom dates from the time when the Knights Templars jousted in a nearby tournaments court.

The American Navy has developed an underwater motion picture camera that divers can operate.

RAINBOW CHICKS

Red, silver, apple green, eau de nil, and cyclamen were among the colours of the feathers of specially-bred chicks recently brought by air from Denmark.

A 15-year-old Doncaster Scout, Peter Morgan, recently saved six of his family in a fire. He tied sheets together so that they could escape from a bedroom window.

About 300,000 Christmas parcels are to be sent under Australia's Food for Britain scheme.

Welsh T.V.

The television transmitter to be erected near Cardiff to serve South Wales and the West of England will probably be operating by the middle of 1952.

An open space near the City Hall of Johannesburg is to be called Jan Smuts Square.

Adventurers of the Southern Seas

SEVERAL thousand Maoris have celebrated the epic adventure of their ancestors who 600 years ago left their homes in the widely scattered islands of Polynesia to cross the Pacific and settle in New Zealand.

These early adventurers, whose homes were in what are now known as the Society and Cook islands, set forth in six big canoes for a great southern land, the legendary Aotearoa (Land of the Long White Cloud); and tradition says that they reached New Zealand in 1350—in December when the coast was gay with the red blossom of the Pohutukura tree.

At the gathering, which was held at Ngaruawahia, near Auckland, the traditions of that famous and remarkable voyage, as they have been handed down by the Maori wise men, generation after generation, were recounted once again, and relics of the pioneers were on display.

Proud Memories

These traditions and relics, as well as the names of the tribal chiefs, have been jealously preserved by the Maoris for centuries back, for they are justifiably proud of their long history. Even today the Maori people are divided into groups of tribes, called wakas, or canoes, each claiming descent from the captain and crew of a canoe that crossed the hundreds of miles of ocean six hundred years ago.

The names of these canoes are remembered to this day and the different wakas are called after them. Just as the modern American's proudest boast is that his forefathers came over in the *Mayflower*, so does the Maori love to claim kinship with an early voyager celebrated in song and story.

One-Dollar Bridge

THE famous Second Narrows Bridge at North Vancouver, which cost two million dollars to construct, has been sold for a dollar!

Originally owned by two North Shore municipalities, the bridge was later taken over by the Canadian National Harbours Board, which financed a million-dollar, reconstruction scheme which was necessary to bring the bridge into working order. An agreement of 1933 provided for the bondholders to repurchase the structure for one dollar at a later date, and this agreement had now been honoured.

Help For the People of Labrador

THE Grenfell Association are again issuing a series of fine Christmas cards to help the fishermen and lumber workers of Labrador who are facing unemployment and distress this winter.

The Association maintains in Labrador four hospitals, one children's home, two boarding schools, one supply vessel, five nursing stations, one day school, and two hospital ships.

A price list illustrating the Christmas cards can be obtained for one penny from the Secretary, Grenfell Association, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

SHODDY IS NOT SO BAD

CONCERN is being felt by North of England textile firms about the effect which the unprecedented high prices for Australian wool will have on cloth.

Prices for raw wool have touched new high records, and one effect will almost certainly be an increased use of synthetic fibres to mix with wool in making cloth.

Many "woollen" cloths already contain a percentage of synthetic fibres such as nylon or artificial silk, while for years the makers have utilised cotton and "shoddy" to eke out wool supplies.

The term "shoddy" has come to have a meaning signifying inferior or below standard. This is not necessarily true, as very large quantities of "shoddy" are prepared from pure woollen old clothes and rags in the Dewsbury area of Yorkshire, and it is

in large demand as an admixture in new cloths.

Other synthetic fibres can be produced from proteins such as monkey-nuts, the whites of eggs, and chicken feathers, but only the first type mentioned is so far available on a commercial basis. Again, a very good fibre can be produced from certain types of seaweed, which is first converted into a solution with chemicals, and then spun out into a continuous fibre.

Blends of wool with nylon or some of the other substitute materials can produce beautiful cloths, with pleasing pattern effects. These cloths have particularly hard-wearing properties, as well as being cheaper, and such is the skill of the manufacturer that the wearer may find it difficult to distinguish between such materials and all-wool cloths.

HELPING MILLIONS OF CHILDREN

THREE years ago the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef) was started with the noble object of helping the millions of children in war-devastated countries. Recently Unicef gave an account of its stewardship.

Since July 1947 over 200,000 tons of food have been moved across the world. In addition the Fund has moved six million dollars' worth of cotton, wool, leather, and hides, five million dollars' worth of medical supplies, as well as large quantities of milk-processing equipment.

Altogether, 43 Governments contributed the money to purchase these supplies, which were distributed to needy mothers and children in more than fifty different countries. Apart from direct Government aid, the United Nations Appeal for Children brought private donations from forty countries and twenty colonial territories.

The problem of needy children in war-devastated countries is now considerably easier, but the Fund will continue to help children for three more years.

THIS KIND WORLD

THOMAS RIGBY, a cattle herdsman of Uckfield, Sussex, had long wanted to go to America on a visit to his parents and two brothers whom he had not seen for 30 years.

He mentioned his wish to his employer, and three days later was handed an aeroplane ticket and told that his passage to America had been booked.

"This is my treat," said his employer.

And that is how Thomas Rigby, now tending cattle again in Sussex, got his three-week holiday in Painesville, Ohio.

WOMEN'S TEST CRICKET IN 1951

SEVENTEEN women cricketers from all parts of this country have been selected to play in Test matches against an Australian side touring in England next year. They include the former English captain, M. Hide.

The first Test will be played at Scarborough in June, and the others at Worcester and the Oval in July. English women are raising £3000 to meet the expenses of the Australian side.



Cadet Cowboys

Twenty-five members of the Air Training Corps have been touring America. At Dallas, in Texas, the boys visited a stock farm and rode some of the famous Palomino horses.

RUGGER DOWN UNDER

IVOR PREECE, the Coventry and England player, who was a member of the British Isles Rugby team which toured New Zealand this year, has some interesting things to say about the national game in that Dominion.

Before big matches, he says, it is customary to have a few "curtain-raising" games by schools and junior sides. Sometimes as many as three preliminary matches will be played before the big match of the day. Our wet pitches would not stand much of that!

Seven-a-side games are played by schoolboys as young as ten years of age. The players are graded by weight, as in boxing, and not by height. This helps the teachers to detect any slacking, which might occur with different weights amongst the forwards.

Our players visited nearly a hundred schools to talk of general conditions in the homeland, but it was not long before these discourses would turn to the boys' favourite game. No wonder, when every school plays Rugby football.

BIRD HOSPITAL

DELHI'S hospital for birds—the only one of its kind in Northern India—is soon to have a three-storeyed building of its own to accommodate the growing number of patients.

Established twenty years ago by a philanthropic Jain family of Delhi, the hospital now consists of a dispensary, a "general ward," and a number of boxes which serve as special isolation wards.

A full-time bird doctor and dispenser look after patients, usually numbering more than a thousand. Pigeons, parrots, crows, sparrows, and even kites are admitted every month during the summer. In winter cases are fewer. Electric fans are responsible for most accidents to birds; casualties are also caused by cats, hawks, and owls.

ROMAN POTTERY IN MIDDLESEX

A 1900-YEAR-OLD pottery has been discovered on the Middlesex hills by a party of archaeologists and helpers who have been excavating a long grass bank on Brockley Hill, near Stanmore, Middlesex. Part of the Roman Watling Street has also been unearthed here for the first time.

A kiln base made of clay baked to the hardness of brick has been uncovered, and there were traces of a brick firing flue. Among the finds were a number of broken pots bearing the signatures of the potters. Nearby is a stretch of cobbled flooring, believed to be the base of hut dwellings occupied by the potters, and to belong to the first or second century.

THE PENSIONER

BERESKA MOKTAR, a 120-year-old Algerian and former Zouave, who joined the French Army in 1848, has been given the old-age pension. Moktar fought in the Crimean War, defended Paris against the Prussians in 1871, and retired at the beginning of the century. He will receive payment from 1945 when the old-age pension started in France.



Rain or Shine?

A member of the Air Ministry Weather Bureau staff enters cloud observations into her logbook on the roof of the Air Ministry, London.

HER BROTHER'S WHISTLE

SHORTLY after an elderly gentleman had entered the lounge of an hotel a low whistle like the chirping of a bird was heard. People in the lounge looked around, wondering where the peculiar sound came from.

Then a middle-aged lady jumped up from her seat and flung her arms round the neck of the man who had whistled, exclaiming: "Oh, it is you, Fred, isn't it?"

The explanation of this scene was that the lady, who lives in Bristol, had not seen her brother Fred for 43 years, but recently wrote arranging to meet him in Edinburgh. After that length of time brother Fred was not at all sure what his sister would look like, so he employed the family whistle that his brothers and sisters had used in their childhood.

TRUNK CALL FROM THE WILDS

A SOUTH AFRICAN native telephoned the authorities to say that elephants were killing cattle in his district.

It sounded alarming, for a party of hunters had just disposed of seven elephants that had escaped from the Kruger National Park and had been extensively damaging farmlands, and now it seemed that some more elephants were behaving even more badly.

So hunters set out again, and after travelling hundreds of miles through wild country found that a hyena had been attacking the cattle.

The native explained that he didn't know the Afrikaans word for hyena, so he had called it elephant!

THE BUILDING BINGS

NOT a little of the credit for their recently-completed seven-roomed bungalow home, built by their father at Reading Street, Broadstairs, Kent, goes to the young Bing family.

June Bing, aged 17, her sister Beryl, 14, and brother Tony, aged eight, were "labourers" for their father and mixed most of the cement and carried nearly all the bricks for the house.

The only outside help received by the enterprising Bing family in the entire building of their home was with the plumbing and installation of electricity.

STAMP NEWS

THE hundredth anniversary of the first postage stamps sold in Australia falls this year, and the occasion is being honoured by a grand philatelic exhibition and the issue of two stamps. The designs have been taken from those first issued by the New South Wales and Victoria colonies. Both stamps are 2½d. values and appear side by side on the sheets.

A SET of four stamps are to be issued in Nyasaland to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the Protectorate.

Two stamps to appear in Holland will mark the 375th anniversary of the foundation of Leyden University. The designs will show the portraits of Janus Douza and Jan van Hout, two champions of freedom, together with the University motto *Liberatis Praesidium*.

IRELAND has issued a postage stamp (2½d, 3d, and 9d) to commemorate 1950—the Holy Year. It shows St Peter seated on a throne.

WRITING FROM REGENT'S PARK, CRAVEN HILL TELLS . . .

How the Zoo's Camels Are Trained

SINCE the war the Zoo has had only two riding camels, Wally and Peggy, on duty. They have proved so popular that, in anticipation of a greatly increased demand next year by Festival of Britain visitors, two more camels, known as George and Minnie, have now been obtained from Whipsnade. Neither of these newcomers is yet fully trained, however, so keepers are losing no time in getting them used to their task.

Let no-one be under the delusion that training a camel is an easy business. Training takes many weeks, sometimes months, for in the early stages the animals are notoriously stubborn and temperamental.

The training is carried out in definite stages. First, a keeper takes the camel out on a lead to accustom the animal to a bridle and saddle. Next stage is to get the camel used to carrying weights, and to begin with a couple of sandbags are put on its back.

Stage three begins when the camel is docile enough for a keeper to ride on its back. Usually there is then plenty of excitement for the man. For, if the animal is still feeling rebellious,

it does not go on strike merely by squatting down, as llamas do. It kicks like a horse, and some of them bite, too! Altogether, it may take several months to get a camel sufficiently well trained to give rides to young visitors. Once it is really used to the job, however, trouble is rarely experienced afterwards.

How strong is an elephant's "sense of smell" is a question which has long puzzled animal lovers. Today, it is being answered in no uncertain way by the senior riding elephant, Rajah.

Rajah spends his mornings in a temporary stable at one end of the Mappin Terraces, and though visitors cannot see him, nor he them, they can and do freely feed the queuing trunk which Rajah slips out through a high-up grille from time to time. Anything meaty, however, is at once refused.

The other day a woman who had been placing biscuits in Rajah's trunk-tip, put a sausage roll in for a change. Although Rajah could not see the offering, the roll was immediately dropped on the ground, and repeated efforts to get the elephant to take it met with the same result.

Offers of sandwiches which contain meat paste are invariably rejected with equal promptness, proving that this elephant, at any rate, has a very highly-developed sense of smell.

Gazoo, the Indian python, probably the tamest snake the Zoo ever had, is going off the "visiting list" so far as small children are concerned. Reason: he has grown too big and heavy to be handled.

"Gazoo was given to us in 1944 by a Worcestershire clergyman who had acquired the snake in India and had been keeping it as a pet," Headkeeper Lanworn told me. "The python was then only six feet long, and was so docile that, ever since, it has been taken from its cage for daily pettings by visitors."

"Gazoo is now about ten feet long and has put on so much weight that small visitors can no longer hold him. Even boys and girls in their teens find him so heavy that they can only carry the snake by wrapping Gazoo's coils around their necks and shoulders."

"In future Gazoo, who should grow ultimately to about twenty feet, will be petted by adults only."

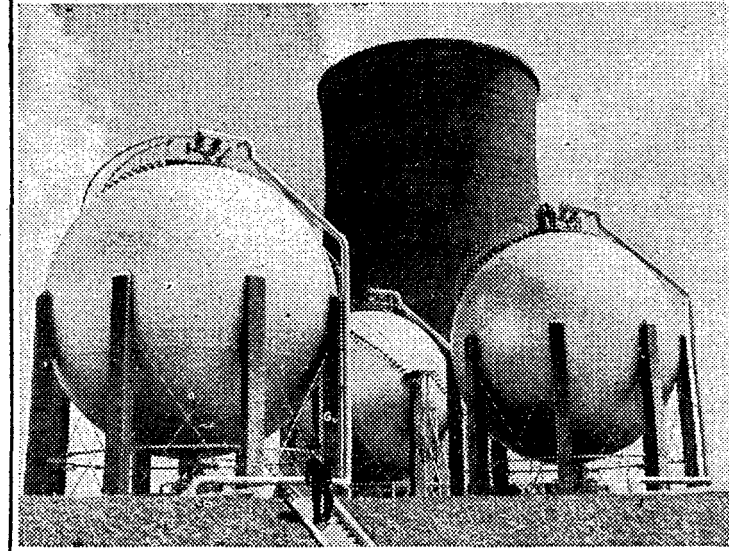
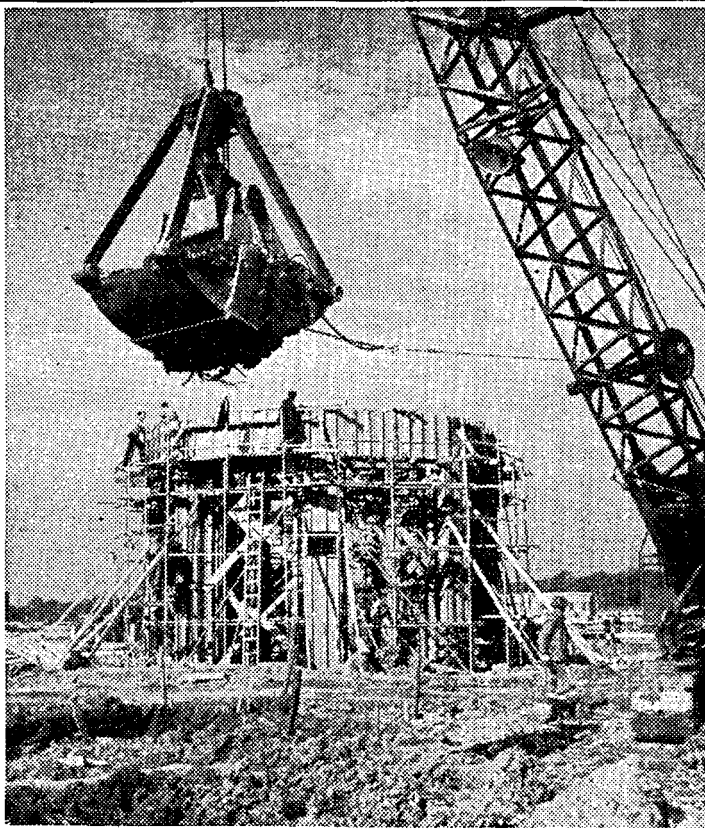
BRITAIN'S NEW OIL-REFINERIES

THESE pictures show how we are becoming independent of other countries in obtaining petrol, lubricating oil, and other products from crude oil.

In the top picture work is going on at what will be the biggest single oil refinery in Europe; it is at Fawley, Southampton. One of the reasons why petrol was taken off the ration was because this great Esso refinery will be completed by the end of 1951. The whole refinery will cost £3,500,000 and it will produce about 5,500,000 tons of petroleum products a year.

The three balloon-like structures in the bottom picture are the first spherical storage tanks to be used in this country. They were recently erected on the site of the Shell Company's new refinery at Stanlow, Ellesmere Port, on the Manchester Ship Canal. Each sphere is 35 feet in diameter and holds 140,000 gallons of butane gas in liquid form.

Behind them is the largest concrete cooling tower in the world, which was completed recently and is 341 feet high.



MOST POWERFUL TURBO-JET

SAPPHIRE is the name given to Britain's latest jet engine, a unit equal in power to the four engines of a giant Stratocruiser.

The new engine is being produced by Armstrong-Siddeley Motors in Coventry and is based on an original design by Metropolitan Vickers. It is more than eleven feet long and is three feet in diameter.

Two Sapphires are being tested in a specially-adapted Meteor. Apart from being the most powerful turbo-jet in existence, the Sapphire goes a long way toward countering the problem of high fuel consumption which has, so far, limited the range of all jet aeroplanes.

ARE THE FLAMINGOS VANISHING?



A flamingo rookery at Hialeah Park, Miami

A REPORT to the Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas by a New York ornithologist, Dr Paul A. Zahl, reveals that the scarlet-hued long-legged flamingos are rapidly disappearing from this group of islands in the British West Indies.

Dr Zahl has conducted flamingo surveys in the Bahamas each year (except 1948) since the war ended, seeking the rookeries of the flamingo from the air as well as from the land. By mid-1946, he reports, flamingos had completely disappeared from several of their long-established nesting marshes on Andros, largest of the islands.

On neighbouring Abaco and Grand Bahama islands there was no evidence whatever of flamingo breeding, a significant discovery in view of the fact that Abaco had been known for decades as a nesting place and a source of flamingo flights. So great were their numbers at one time that visitors said the flamingos "at times obliterate the sun and redden the sky."

The only compensation for the loss of flamingos from so many islands was the discovery that on a few of the islands at the other end of the Bahamas—Inagua Island especially—an increase in the number of adult flamingos was evident.

Dr Zahl, estimating their numbers in Inagua and surrounding islets at between three and four thousand, describes their nesting homes as "the last

stand haven for Bahamian flamingos."

On Inagua a small salt-refining industry provides a modest living for the thousand or so coast-bound native population, thereby reducing the incentive to molest the birds for eggs and food. But even so it was found that the flamingos have retreated from their old sites on Lake Windsor. Now their foot-high nesting mounds of mud, sticks, and grass are to be found on the shores of a less accessible lake.

The reason for this migration from age-old haunts, Dr Zahl believes, is twofold. Flamingos dislike low-flying aircraft, and during the war Andros Island was an aircraft practice area, and low-altitude flights over this and surrounding islands were almost of daily occurrence.

Another likely reason for the flamingos' disappearance is that in mid-1940 a big oil-prospecting operation on the island brought native labourers to Andros. Thus, reports Dr Zahl, "when natives succeed in locating a flamingo rookery, plunder of eggs and the young immediately ensues."

Looking to the future, Dr Zahl urges efficient wardening and law enforcement on Inagua and other existing rookeries, and suggests that a sanctuary on the pattern of the flamingo colony at Hialeah Park, Miami, Florida, be set up at Lake Killarney on New Providence Island.

Germes May Narrow the Dollar Gap

FOR a long time now two research scientists at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, have been studying the activities of groups of bacteria, or germs, which break down sulphur compounds and produce pure sulphur.

To begin with the two men, Mr K. R. Butlin and Mr J. Postgate, were concerned with the way these *thiobacilli* attacked and corroded concrete sewers and iron mains, for sewage is an excellent medium for bacteria which break down sulphate compounds.

Recently their researches have taken them to Libya, where six-inch layers of finely-divided sulphur are to be found on the bottom of certain lakes. This sludge is formed by the action of two sets of bacteria. One pinky-coloured set, living near the surface, takes oxygen from sulphates dissolved in the water and

turns them to sulphides. The sulphides sink as a greenish black layer to the bottom, where the other set of bacteria converts them into sulphur. Over two hundred tons of sulphur are formed every year.

Now sulphur is one of the most important raw materials in industry and the bulk of Britain's supplies has to be imported from America at the cost of many precious dollars.

So it is hoped that by breeding more active strains of these sulphur-forming bacteria and by supplying them with ample food material by pumping sewage into the lakes of Libya in which they are found the natural process might be speeded up and many tons of sulphur will be made available for British industry without having to spend dollars. The problem is not yet solved, however.

The House Has Risen Once Again

UPON the re-opening of Parliament the Members assembled in the new House of Commons chamber which has taken the place of the old chamber destroyed by German bombs on the night of May 10, 1941. It is a worthy new home for the old Mother of Parliaments, and as the King himself stated "in a sense it belongs to our great family of nations, for it is adorned and enriched by gifts from all over the Commonwealth."

AUSTRALIA has supplied the Speaker's majestic Chair, and Canada the Table of the House; and British craftsmanship is finely displayed in their exquisite carving and in the way they have been merged into one dominating whole.

At the Bar end of the chamber is the Serjeant-at-Arms' chair, made from the choicest of Ceylon woods. When the Serjeant in future manipulates the Mace to mark the various stages in the passage of bills he will rest this massive emblem of authority on brackets presented by Northern Rhodesia.

THE three chairs for the clerks at the Table are the gifts of the South African people. The three chamber clocks are presents from Northern Ireland. India and Pakistan between them are represented by a pair of entrance doors to the chamber.

The entrance to the chamber from the rebuilt Members' lobby is under what is now known as the Churchill Archway. This has been built from the stones which formed the original arch and were carefully preserved; though, as seen in the picture below, they were considerably damaged.

In the same chamber block are rooms for Ministers and MPs, who will use them for secretaries, interviews and conferences. In the Prime Minister's conference room are a chairman's chair, provided by St Helena, and six other chairs from Newfoundland.

The Windward Islands have also contributed to the new building. Granada, Dominica, and St Lucia have each given one silver inkstand, and St Vincent has sent a silver ashtray.

As the Prime Minister has

said, "Even when we go to write a letter or smoke a cigarette there will be something to remind us of some part of the Commonwealth and their share in helping us to adorn the Old Mother of Parliaments."

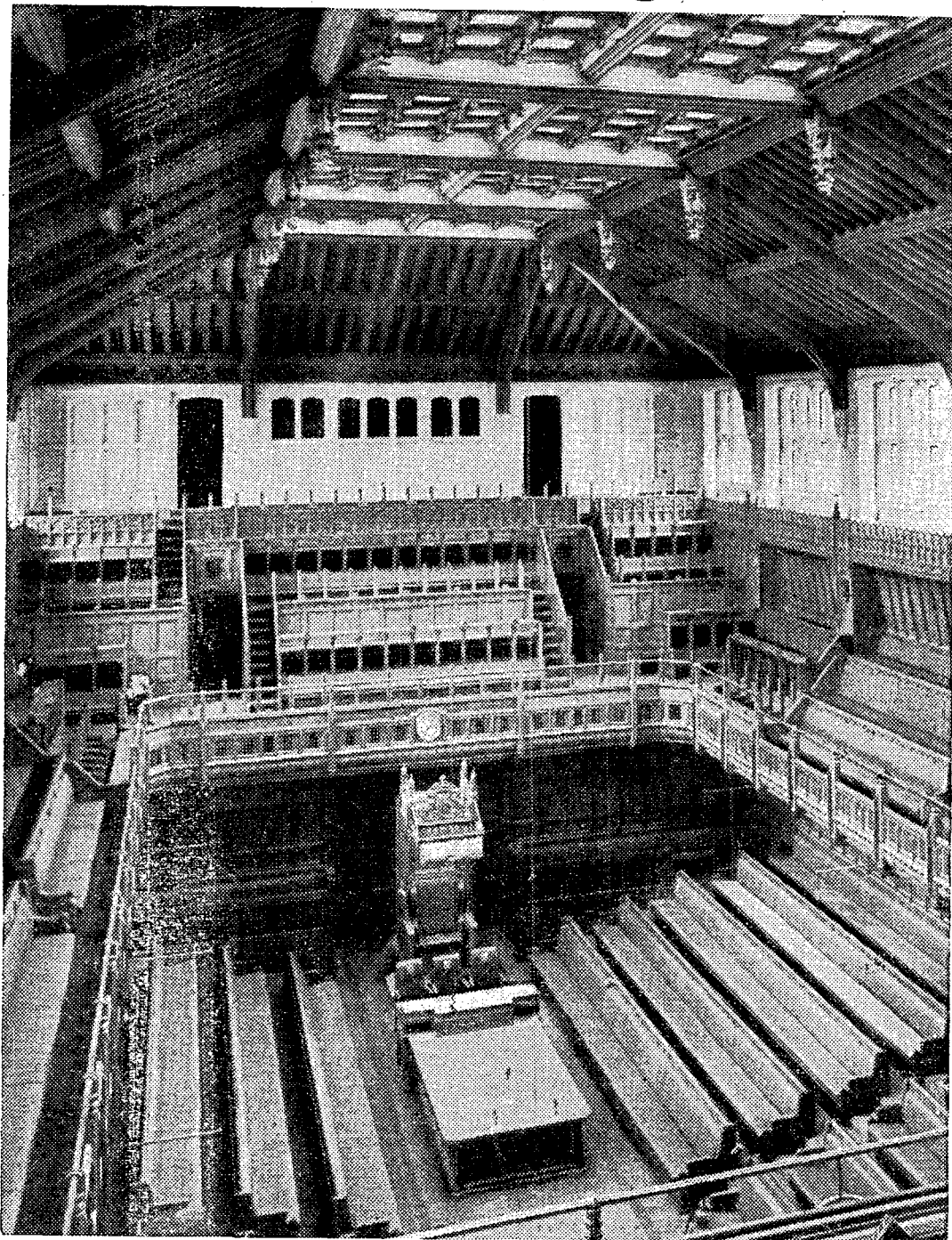
THIS new House of Commons chamber takes the place of the one which came into use about 100 years ago, after the great fire of 1834, and was associated with such giants as Gladstone, Disraeli, Parnell, as well as great figures of the twentieth century such as Asquith, Lloyd George, and Winston Churchill.

The floor space—68 feet by 45½ feet—is the same, but above the gallery level extra room has been planned so that 171 more people can be seated.

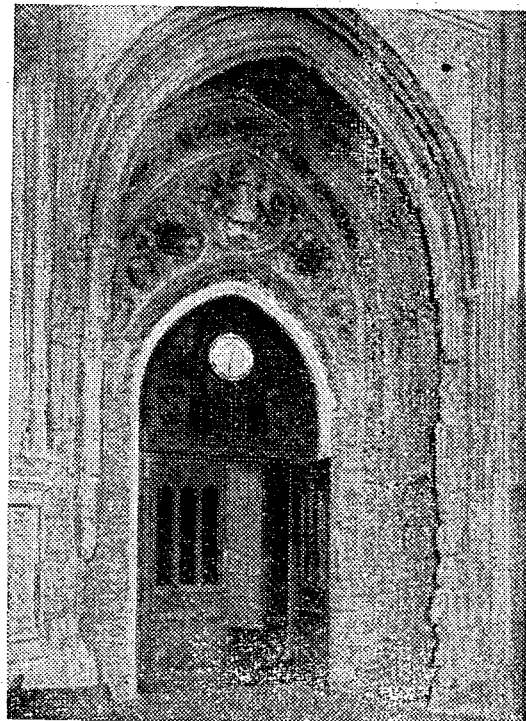
Accommodation is split up into 437 seats for the 615 MPs (on the floor of the House, other MPs in attendance occupying side galleries), 165 special "strangers" (distinguished visitors), 161 ordinary strangers, 161 official, Press, BBC, and foreign Press reporters, and 15 other officials.

Great efforts have been made to enable the atmosphere of the chamber to be kept at a "spring day" temperature, however many or few are present at one time; a man in a control chamber below will attend to the air-conditioning, and science has also produced acoustic wonders so that no back-bencher need now blush unheard when he makes a speech.

THE new House of Commons is interesting not for its own sake only: it points to the way that all big public buildings of the future might be built for the comfort of those who have to sit long hours in them.

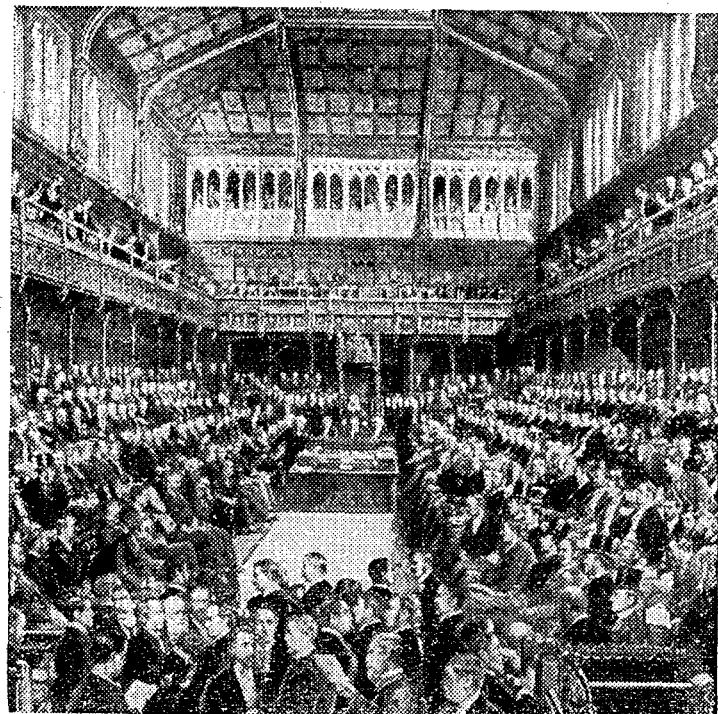


1941—Mr Winston Churchill amid the ruins of the debating chamber



1950—The Churchill Archway, restored with the old stones

Above: The new debating chamber, and below: The old chamber, with Mr Gladstone addressing the House





In the Land of Monsters

Two young visitors to the Crystal Palace grounds in Sydenham make a close inspection of the statues of prehistoric creatures.

NEW WAY TO COLLECT STAMPS

SCHOOLS, universities, student groups, youth clubs, and similar organisations in many countries will soon be collecting stamps—not used foreign stamps but brand-new stamps all issued by 55 nations at once.

This new variant of an old hobby is being launched by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) to help young people to send gifts overseas without money and customs difficulties. Gift stamps sent to groups in participating nations will be as good as money orders for the purchase of books, 16mm films, or scientific equipment.

Through National Commissions in each country, school and club groups may receive sheets of stamps for sale to their members. The stamps will be printed in two parts, perforated for easy separation. One half is a "gift order" worth 25 cents;

the other a record to be kept by the giver.

When a member of the group buys a 25 cent stamp he pastes it on a special sheet, and writes his or her name underneath. Each page will have room for twenty stamps, with a total value of five dollars. When the page is full the name of the class, club, or group is written at the top of the page.

The sheet is then posted to a similar group in some country lacking educational or scientific supplies. The recipient group may use its gift order at once, or may decide to save enough sheets of gift stamps to pay for some more expensive book or film or piece of laboratory equipment.

This new plan is an extension of Unesco's book-coupon scheme, which was recently broadened to cover the purchase of teaching films and science supplies.

Taking the Festival to the Provinces

THE world's biggest travelling exhibition is to take the road in over 100 lorries during next year's Festival of Britain. It will consist of about 5000 exhibits, ranging from a full-scale replica, weighing seven tons, of the *Rocket* locomotive, to thimbles, pins, and needles, and all of it will be unloaded and set up in buildings, in turn, at Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, and Nottingham.

Only 21 days are to be allowed between each of these stopping-places, to dismantle and load, transport it to the next city, and re-erect it.

This imposing display will illustrate the story of the British people, their way of living, their achievements, and their industrial contribution to civilisation.

The replica of the *Rocket* will have with it a full-scale model of a carriage of those early days, and this will be compared with the latest Pullman coach with its kitchen and cloakroom.

A Shillibeer's horse-drawn bus, the first bus introduced into London in 1829, will be compared with a modern bus, and in the air travel section will be a model of the Brabazon airliner.

Among the other sections will be a display of toys for older children, including a large model railway section, a giant flip-flap made of Meccano, and a large model theatre with transformation scenes.

This great travelling exhibition is not meant to be just a duplicate of the one on the South Bank at London, and other exhibitions, but is to be a complete show in its own right.

Crewe's 7000th Loco

THE 7000th locomotive built at Crewe since the beginning of engine-building there has been completed. It is numbered 41,272 and carries on each side a plaque to commemorate its significance in the history of the Crewe works.

The first engine to be produced at Crewe was the *Columbine*, which was made 105 years ago. It worked for 57 years, and is now in the York Railway Museum. When the *Columbine* was built the works covered three acres, with 161 workmen. Now there are 137 acres of works and 7400 men and women employees, and between 50 to 60 engines are turned out each year.

Dinosaurs Down Kensington Way

DR D. W. SWINTON, Keeper of the South Kensington Natural History Museum, is planning to brighten up dark corners in the galleries. He has engaged the famous mural artist, William Hoyle, to paint pictures of prehistoric life in Britain and America, and one particularly vivid scene shows a group of flesh-eating Dinosaurs.

In the basement of the Museum the workshop staff are busy on the delicate task of chipping the bones of a giant *Edmontosaurus* from the hard sandstone rock enclosing it. This particular Dinosaur was a vegetarian, about 22 feet long.

Unfortunately, the head is missing, but it will be fitted with a plaster one; and although ten more crates in which the monster travelled from Canada are still unopened, it is hoped that the reconstruction work will be finished in time to display for the Festival of Britain.

AID FOR OTHER PEOPLES

THE first allocation by Unesco of technical aid under the United Nations' programme for under-developed countries has begun. About 850,000 dollars are being shared in the first project by Ceylon, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Pakistan, Persia, and Thailand; and each of these countries will contribute at least an equal amount.

Technical and industrial training, the elimination of illiteracy, and the establishment of scientific research centres are among the purposes for which the money has been granted.

At present Unesco has 2,300,000 dollars available under the scheme, and is considering the needs of other countries.

EXTRA PASSENGERS

WHEN the liner *Caronia* arrived at Southampton, not long ago, two of the passengers were racing pigeons, which on the outward voyage had come down exhausted on the ship's deck off Land's End and been taken to New York and back. They were returned to their owners.

For US Boy Scouts



A sundial in the form of an axe sunk in a log was presented by the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallen, to the President of the American Boy Scouts.

The Editor's Table

QUALITIES FOR YOUNG BRITAIN

SIR JOHN MAUD recently defined three qualities which it is important for British children to develop in these stirring times.

"The first quality," he said, "is responsibility for making the best of oneself, one's parents, one's school, one's country, and the world. This means constant denunciation of the lie that 'nothing can be done about it,' and daily determination to do something—first, of all about oneself.

"Secondly, rebelliousness—the quality of men and women who are at least potentially revolting against imprisonment by the second rate in themselves and society, and by other evil things.

"And thirdly, resource—from the discovery of one's own powers, by personal discipline, by the discovery of the power of friendship, by experience of corporate action; and of spiritual power, by accepting our 'bounden duty.'"

HAPPY HOMES OF 1950

THERE is so much gloomy comparison of home life today with that of our ancestors' times that it is good to hear a bishop declaring that home life is happier than it was.

The Bishop of Sheffield said recently: "I believe there is more real comradeship between man and wife and a good deal less cruelty and unhappiness in homes today compared with a hundred years ago. The outstanding fact about society today is not deterioration, but that the pattern of society has been changing, largely as a result of political and economic influences."

THE QUALITIES OF THE SCOTS

SPEAKING to young people in Scotland not long ago the Queen asked on what qualities were founded the great part played by the Scottish people not only in their own country, but also in the Dominions and elsewhere?

"First, I think," the Queen went on, "upon the simplicity and integrity of countless Scottish homes where children have for generations learned the Christian way of life.

"Next, upon the schools and academies of Scotland, where devoted teachers have never been lacking to meet that zeal for scholarship which has always inspired the youth of Scotland."

MASTER OF HIMSELF

HE that would govern others first should be The master of himself, richly endowed With depth of understanding, height of knowledge.

Philip Massinger

Innocent Fun

A VICAR wrote in his parish magazine recently that it is undignified for a bridegroom to have confetti thrown over him. He continued: "And the sight of middle-aged people getting together and going gay with balloons is distinctly depressing."

Some of our readers will not altogether agree. Grown-ups can be dull people at times and it is a relief to see them indulging in a little natural gaiety now and then. Uncle John and Auntie Mary may not look very dignified in false noses and funny hats, but if they're enjoying themselves, why worry? We shall be grown-ups ourselves one day.

TREES FOR REMEMBRANCE

AS a memorial to the late Alderman W. H. Rippin, of Desford, an avenue of beech trees screened by Scotch pines is being planned by Leicestershire Footpaths Association, of which Mr Rippin was President for some years.

It will be a fitting tribute and yet one more example of a practice which should everywhere be encouraged. No man can have a finer memorial than one which lives and keeps his name ever green down the years.

Bounteous Autumn

SEASON of mist and mellow fruitfulness! Close bosom friend of the maturing stem; Conspiring with him how to load and bless With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run, To bend with apples the mossed cottage trees, And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core.

John Keats

BENEFIT OF TRAVEL

THE use of travelling is to regulate late imagination by reality; and instead of thinking how things may be, to see them as they are.

Samuel Johnson

Under the



PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW

If telephone operators have many calls on their time

A LADY says she never remembers dates. Buys figs instead.

MORE colour in factories might help to beat boredom. Would have to be striking hues.

MANY careless people are inclined to go swimming with a wrist watch on. But the watch won't go.

PAY as you go is a good rule. But at cinemas you must pay when you arrive.

THINGS SAID

FOR the free nations the risks of the future lie in weakness and in drifting apart.
Geoffrey Crowther

IN Britain the sausage is in danger of becoming a discredited hero and dying unhonoured and unsung.
A London butcher

A good library in every primary school is the essential preliminary service to that of the public library.
Manchester's City Librarian

THERE is no longer any question of whether the United Nations will survive. Blood is thicker than ink, and the question is being answered in Korea.
American Secretary of State

BILL OF FARE

AN Italian professor recently said some hard things about a meal served in a London restaurant. He described the *Filets de sole bonne femme*, as "water-soaked cottony bundles wrapped in a paste rather like the soup, only stickier, with black foreign bodies, supposed to be mushrooms, floating here and there like drowned grubs."

The shortcomings of our cooks may be due to their trying to imitate foreign dishes. André Maurois once advised his fellow-countrymen that the two best meals in England were breakfast and tea—eggs and bacon or well-prepared kippers; and tea with hot buttered toast and different kinds of delightful pastries.

We cannot expect our foreign visitors to live on eggs and bacon, but we can stick to simple dishes and get them "done to a turn."

Our cooks should put on their thinking, as well as their chef's, caps before the Festival of Britain.

JUST AN IDEA

As Sir Walter Scott wrote: When a man has not a good reason for doing a thing, he has no good reason for letting it alone.

ditor's Table

SOME gardeners do not trouble to grow potatoes. Let them grow themselves.

IT is proposed that the United Nations should have a standing army. No route marches?

A FAMOUS author cannot stand having his portrait painted. And he won't sit.

A NOVELIST says his favourite hobby is digging. Hope he has a good plot.



E gardeners' plants always come up to scratch. Must be grown out of spite.

FAREWELL, R. F. T.

THE Children's Newspaper has suffered a grievous loss in the sudden death of the assistant editor, Richard Frank Towler. He joined the staff of Arthur Mee as a lad fresh from school, and after serving as a soldier throughout the First World War returned to take a share in the founding of this paper.

Rejoicing in a happy family life, Richard Towler also knew the happiness that comes from complete absorption in his daily task. Certainly no man was ever more devoted to his life's work; for 40 years he gave of his best, playing a great part in the production of the CN, and the Children's Encyclopedia, of which he was also assistant editor.

A man of high ideals, wise in counsel, steadfast in his loyalties, strong and sure in times of stress, and always kindly, Richard Towler was as a brother to his colleagues; to them, and to his countless friends everywhere, he will always remain a shining memory.

HEARTY HERTFORDSHIRE

THE Church Council of Wheat-hampstead must have been thinking of their reputation made by Charles Lamb when they recently turned down a proposal to start a Guild of Good Neighbours. Wheathampstead folk, they claim, are already sufficiently neighbourly.

Charles Lamb, who as a child lived at Mackery End, Wheat-hampstead, would have agreed. In a delightful essay he described a visit to the house 40 years after.

He dared not call, "for I am terribly shy in making myself known to strangers and out-of-date kinsfolk." But his cousin, Bridget, entered and "soon returned with a creature that might have sat to a sculptor for the image of Welcome." She was the new young mistress of the old mansion.

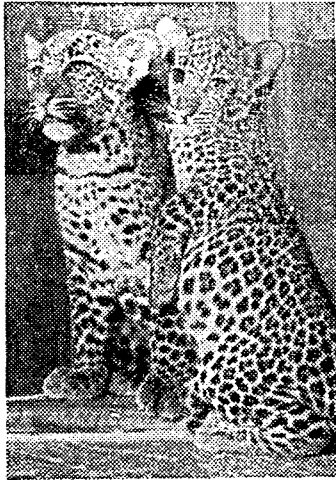
"Those slender ties that prove slight as gossamer in the rending atmosphere of a metropolis bind faster, as we found it, in hearty, homely, loving Hertfordshire. In five minutes we were as thoroughly acquainted as if we had been born and bred together..."

Mr Jingle on Dogs

AH! you should keep dogs—fine animals—sagacious creatures—dog of my own once—Pointer—surprising instinct—out shooting one day—entering enclosure—whistled—dog stopped—whistled again—Ponto—no go; stock still—called him—Ponto, Ponto—wouldn't move—dog transfixed—staring at a board—looked up; saw an inscription—"Gamekeeper has orders to shoot all dogs found in this enclosure"—wouldn't pass it—wonderful dog—valuable dog that—very. Charles Dickens

THE ENCHANTER

THE tints of autumn—a mighty flower garden blossoming under the spell of the enchanter—Frost. J. G. Whittier



Double Trouble

Among recent arrivals at the Bristol Zoo are these two leopard cubs.

CROMWELL RELICS

A COMPANY known as Cromwell Association Heirlooms has been formed to accept gifts of relics of the Great Protector, and Lord Hinchinbrooke has agreed to their being kept with the Cromwell relics in his ancestral home at Hinchinbrooke, just outside Huntingdon.

Hinchinbrooke House, originally a nunnery, came to the Cromwell family after the Dissolution, the last Cromwell to live there being Sir Oliver Cromwell, the Protector's Uncle, who sold it in 1627 to Sir Henry Montagu, an ancestor of Viscount Hinchinbrooke. There can be no doubt that the Protector, who was born only about a mile away, was often at his uncle's house during his boyhood, and it is pleasant to think his relics are to be preserved there together in the lovely home of his family, where visitors may see them.

1200 Purses

ABOUT 550 children were among those who presented 1200 purses to Princess Elizabeth containing contributions to the Church of England Children's Society at the Society's recent Founder's Day Festival.

The founder himself, Edward Rudolph, would have marvelled at such a spectacle, for the first contribution he received, in 1881, was 13 penny stamps!

Today the Children's Society is caring for 5000 children, and has 115 branches. It is the country's greatest adoption agency, and although it was the pioneer of the practice of boarding out children, most of its work is done in its own homes.

SKY MAP

THE huge task of making a map of half the sky, giving the relative positions of 128,000 stars, has just been completed at Yale University, 23 years after it was begun. Some 500,000 measurements had to be taken to catalogue the position of the stars, many of which are invisible to the naked eye.

The positions were plotted from photographs, most of which were taken at the Yale-Columbia station at Witwatersrand University, South Africa. The measurements were made by the use of electronic calculating machines, which carried out the work in far less time than human calculators would have taken.

Robert McClure of the North-West Passage

A GREAT day in the annals of Arctic exploration was recently celebrated. On October 26, just a century ago, Sir Robert McClure and a little company of sledging sailors discovered the North-West Passage, the Atlantic-Pacific link which had eluded navigators through the centuries.

The age-old search for the North-West Passage had cost many gallant lives, including those of Sir John Franklin and the splendid crews of his two ships, *Erebus* and *Terror*. It had long been believed that in those high northern latitudes lay a vast region, favoured by climate and possessed of boundless wealth. By 1850 exploration had shown this to be more than doubtful, but the short cut to India and China, with all their trade and riches, had still to be found.

A few years earlier Sir John Franklin had disappeared during the quest. Ship after ship had been sent to seek him, and among the boldest of their captains was Sir Robert McClure, an Irishman who had devoted the greater part of his career to Arctic research.

Held Fast in the Ice

McClure was 43 when, in 1850, he sailed once more, this time in command of the *Investigator*, accompanying a second ship, which he lost sight of, and thenceforth proceeded alone. He made from England to the Pacific and, passing the Bering Strait, forged slowly eastward till his ship was caught and held fast in the ice.

Conducting a small sledging party, McClure headed north-east and, five days later, on October 26, 1850, climbed an ice-clad hill rising 600 feet above the sea, looked out at sunrise over Banks Strait and Melville Sound, and knew that he had found the North-West Passage! Other men had fruitlessly reached the scene by sailing from east to west, and had there been stopped by ice; he had come from the north-west. In his hour of triumph McClure must have recalled the unforgettable moment in the life of Balboa when he stood silent upon a peak in Darien and gazed upon the Pacific, the first white man to do so.

For three whole winters McClure and his crew were ice-

bound, and they were in dire straits when Lieutenant Pim of the *Resolute* managed to reach them with food and medical supplies. Even then they were forced to spend yet another winter in the Arctic and to abandon the *Investigator*, eventually making their way home in the *North Star*, which reached England in September 1854.

McClure was later to learn that Franklin himself, during his closing months, had discovered a North-West passage. But that did not lessen the triumph of McClure. He was the first man to take a ship's company from the Pacific to the Atlantic in those bleak regions; and he was the first man to see the North-West Passage and live to tell the tale!

The dreams of a short cut by the north-west route to the Far East were not realised, but McClure had nobly played his part.

PAINT FOR THE ATOMIC AGE

EXPERIMENTS are being made to lessen the deadly effects of atomic violence on ships.

For example, existing paints are to be removed from all-metal ships of war and a newly-perfected paint substituted. Radio-active particles, while not penetrating a ship, adhere to it; the new paint resists the particles better than any other previously used.

This recalls a surprising discovery made during the recent war. During battle the paint on vessels of war, no matter how hard and though applied in coats to a thickness of a quarter of an inch, exploded in a flash under the effects of heat, converting a vessel into one vast bonfire. After this experience certain ships were stripped of their dangerous paint and fought as naked metal.



OUR HOMELAND

The Cross in the Wiltshire town of Devizes

Sharks Move North

FISHERMEN of Helgeland, in North Norway, have been astonished to see sharks in the fjords. It is rare indeed for these warm-water monsters to venture so near the Arctic Circle.

A large shark swam into the harbour of Gjersvik, not long ago, and upset two small boats. Another shark, in South Fjord, came so close to a fisherman's boat that he speared the intruder with his boathook. The shark dived at terrific speed, and the harpooner's hand became entangled in the rope attached to the hook. He was pulled overboard, but other fishermen rowed swiftly to the spot and saved him.

In Tjongsfjord a fish, believed to be a shark and weighing 440 lbs, was shot.

Helgeland is a region of steep valleys, high waterfalls, deep forests, and the mighty Svarisen Glacier—not far South of where the boys of the British Schools Exploring Society camped this year.

Its coast is washed by the Gulf Stream, which gives it a more temperate climate than other places so near the Arctic Circle, and enables fruit and flowers to be grown in summer which are unknown in similar latitudes.

AERIAL TOP-DRESSING

FURTHER evidence of the increasingly useful part the aeroplane can play in our national life has been shown at Plympton, Cardiganshire.

A twin-engined Bristol Freighter, equipped with a six-ton hopper, made eight flights, distributing a total of 48 tons of lime and phosphate over hill and marginal land.

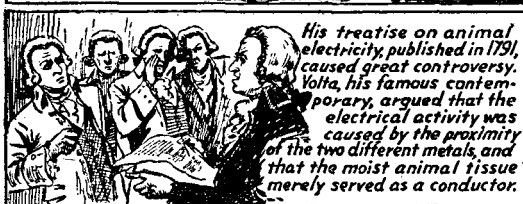
The fertiliser was dropped in swathes, varying from two cwt to four cwt per acre, over valuable land that had been considered too inaccessible for cultivation.



Galvani, a lecturer on anatomy in Bologna, his native city, experimented by suspending dead frogs from an iron railing—whereupon the creatures were galvanised into convulsive kicks and muscular twitches.

Pioneers 37. LUIGI GALVANI, of Electricity fame

He devised a metallic arc, of two different metals, to prove that they were charged with natural electricity—negative on the outside of the muscles, which discharged through the iron, and positive along the internal nerves, discharging through the copper.



His treatise on animal electricity, published in 1791, caused great controversy. Volta, his famous contemporary, argued that the electrical activity was caused by the proximity of the two different metals, and that the moist animal tissue merely served as a conductor.

Volta was right, but to Galvani we owe the important discovery of CURRENT ELECTRICITY as distinct from that produced by friction. From his studies stem the galvanic cell and battery, also the galvanometer and the galvanising process.



HIS GENIUS HAS ENRICHED THE WORLD

COUNTLESS thousands heard the news of the death of George Bernard Shaw with a sense of loss beyond repair. G. B. S. seemed an abiding institution, and with his passing something fundamental seems to have departed from the national life.

Born in Dublin in 1856, G. B. S. was the son of a gifted but intemperate father and a musical mother from whom he inherited much of his abounding charm. It was his mother who sustained him in London on his arrival in the capital in 1876—through his early penniless years in journalism, his street-corner speech-making, and other activities as a militant Socialist.

A teetotaler, a non-smoker, a vegetarian, an anti-vaccinationist, and an anti-vivisectionist, he

was in earlier years regarded by many people as a crank; but he was a formidable opponent, with a wit which invariably triumphed over his detractors. He was blessed, moreover, with a Puckish sense of humour, and it delighted him to treat accepted opinions as skittles to bowl over.

His early novels and plays failed, but some of those failures became pillars of his fortune when his reputation was established. It was as a critic of art, music, and drama that he convinced his age that a new intellectual force had arrived.

Gradually he established himself as the foremost dramatist of the age. All his plays furthered his social and political theories. His finest friendships were those with individual Englishmen, but he did not pretend to admire Englishmen as a nation.

No man ever enjoyed greater success in the theatre; yet no man tasted failure more at the outset of his career. *Arms and the Man*, which has since enjoyed run after run upon revival, lasted originally for a season of two months in London, with takings averaging £23 per performance. Later, such plays as *Candida*, *St Joan*, and *Caesar and Cleopatra* always packed the theatres.

G. B. S. became a wealthy man, but he remained unwearyingly generous. Passionately angry at times, passionately kind always, he was an unsleeping foe

of abuse and wrong, the champion of all that seemed to him worthy and noble.

He retained to the end a marvellous measure of the intellectual vigour, the wit, the wisdom, and the elfish humour that had won him admirers throughout the world.

"Life is no brief candle to me," he once wrote; "it is a splendid torch which I have hold of for a moment; I mean to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

To make the torch of life burn brightly—that was the guiding principle of George Bernard Shaw all his days. There can be few who would deny that he succeeded far beyond the dreams of most mortals.

The Tins of Binns

LONG, long ago Walter Binns, a tinsmith in Manchester, opened his business in a cellar in Miller Street. He had orders for hand-made roasting tins and milk-churns.

Now the firm that took over the business has just had its centenary. In its present premises it employs 250 people and makes 50 million household articles a year. For its 101st year orders include ten million cake-tins, one and a half million roasting tins, and a million water-bottles for miners.

Prizewinners

RESULT OF SEPT COMPETITION

IN the fifth of our monthly competitions the Prize Bicycle has been awarded to

AILEEN CAMPBELL,
24 Jedburgh Avenue,
Rutherglen,
Lanarkshire,

whose entry was correct and the best-written of those received.

The following entrants, who came next in order of merit, have each been awarded a Ten-shilling Note:

ROBERT BIGGAR, Lauder; JANET CLARKE, Carmarthen; M. ELAINE CURRIE, Leeds; AMANDA DENTON, Farnham; ROGER DUTTON, Tarporely; STUART KENYON, Accrington; DAVID MILLER, London, S.W.16; ANNE MOULTON, Ayr; ELIZABETH PENNINGTON, Kings Langley; MARGARET SMITH, Sandiacre.

CORRECT SOLUTION: 1, Eagle, J. 2, Ostrich, G. 3, Duck, A. 4, Dove, C. 5, Pheasant, I. 6, Parrot, D. 7, Peacock, H. 8, Swallow, B. 9, Turkey, E. 10, Magpie, F.

Another splendid competition will be announced soon.

TERNS AGAINST THE SEA

THE past summer has shown again the persistence of terns in their efforts to establish themselves on the mile-long Scroby Sandbank, opposite Great Yarmouth.

Two years ago in a fierce summer gale many young birds and hundreds of eggs were destroyed.

This summer the terns (including the common, Sandwich, and lesser tern) came back. Again in bad weather high tides destroyed the eggs and birds.

A leading Norfolk ornithologist could find only one tern chick. Yet once again, though the season was so late, the terns laid more eggs, as though determined to establish themselves here.

THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN—Picture-Version of Browning's Famous Poem (Final Instalment)

Horried, the mean Mayor and Corporation of Hamelin watched the merry crowd of all the town's children as

they followed the Pied Piper towards the River Weser into which he had previously led the hordes of rats that had

overrun the city. They thought that the Pied Piper was leading the children to the same fate as befell the rats.



However, he turned from South to West, And to Koppelberg Hill his steps addressed. And after him the children pressed; Great was the joy in every breast. "He never can cross that mighty top! He's forced to let the piping drop, And we shall see our children stop! When, lo, as they reached the mountain-side, A wondrous portal opened wide, As if a cavern was suddenly hollowed; And the Piper advanced and the children followed.



And when all were in to the very last, The door in the mountain-side shut fast. Did I say all? No! One was lame, And could not dance the whole of the way; And in after years, if you would blame His sadness, he was used to say: "It's dull in our town since my playmates left! I can't forget that I'm bereft Of all the pleasant sights they see, Which the Piper also promised me. For he led us, he said, to a joyous land, Joining the town and just at hand,



"Where waters gushed and fruit trees grew, And flowers put forth a fairer hue, And everything was strange and new. The sparrows were brighter than peacocks here, And their dogs outran our fallow deer, And honey-bees had lost their stings, And horses were born with eagles' wings: And just as I became assured My lame foot would be speedily cured, The music stopped and I stood still, And found myself outside the hill, Left alone against my will."



Alas, alas for Hamelin! And the better in memory to fix The place of the children's last retreat, They called it the Pied Piper's Street—Where anyone playing on pipe or tabor Was sure for the future to lose his labour. Nor suffered they hostility or tavern To shock with mirth a street so solemn; But opposite the place of the cavern They wrote the story on a column: How their children were stolen away; And there it stands to this very day.

A new picture-version of Robert Louis Stevenson's "Kidnapped" will begin on this page shortly

Another complete new story of Morgan of the Mounties THE MAN WHO WAS TWO by Frank S. Pepper



CORPORAL TIM MORGAN, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, was in the Hemlock Valley store, gossiping with Fred the storekeeper when Dandy Dorville came in.

Some people might have thought that Tim was idling away his time, and that he might have been better employed in patrolling the large area of territory under his care than in swopping chatter with Fred. But it was just because Tim was expected to look after more square miles than any one man could properly cover that he found Fred so useful. Fred, because of his job, knew everyone and heard all the gossip.

Tim studied Dandy thoughtfully as he entered the store. Here was a man who was a real puzzle. Tim counted it as part of his job to learn all that he could about new people who moved into the Valley, but Dandy Dorville had had a cabin by the creek for nearly a month now and was still a stranger.

DANDY had been dubbed with his nickname almost as soon as he had arrived in the Valley. His vanity, amounting almost to a mania, about his personal appearance was something new in the experience of the rough-and-ready men of the Valley. He was fastidiously clean and well groomed. His hands were always carefully manicured. His sleek, black hair looked as polished as his shoes.

"Did you get that new shaving cream for me, Fred?" asked Dandy. "And the face lotion?"

While Fred groped under his cluttered counter, Corporal Tim permitted himself a faint grin as he thought of the conversation that would be caused among the menfolk of Hemlock Valley when Fred began to spread the news that Dandy Dorville used face lotion. It had been bad enough when it had been discovered that he always shaved twice a day. Many a whiskey husband who thought twice a week ample frequency for using a razor had been driven almost to distraction by a wife who tried to hold up Dandy as a model to be copied.

Dandy, gathering his bottles from the counter, became aware of Tim's thoughtful scrutiny, and smiled.

"Guess I must be something of a puzzle to you, Corporal?" he asked. "You're wondering why I should bury myself in a place like this?"

"You certainly strike me as someone who would be more at home in a city," Tim admitted.

For a moment Dandy assumed the air of a hunted man. Then he pulled himself together.

"The truth of it is, I'm hiding from my double," he confessed.

"You mean there's someone else who looks like you?" asked Tim.

"The spitting image," Dandy said unhappily. "But that's only

the half of it—he's been leading me a terrible life. He orders things from shops and has them charged to my account. He borrows money from my friends. He breaks the traffic laws and I'm the one who receives the summons. He follows me from place to place. But I don't think he'll find me up here."

"Sure is remarkable!" Fred gasped in amazement. "But why don't the police—"

"The police haven't been able to catch him," Dandy said disgustedly. "They don't even know his name. I call him John Doe—meaning he might be just anybody."

"Ah, them city police sure are slow," declared Fred sadly. "But the Corporal here is different. Maybe it would be a good thing for you if this John Doe did follow you up here. Corporal Tim could catch him for you."

"I'd rather not chance it," declared Dandy, scanning the cans of food on the shelves. "There are a few more things I need, Fred. I'm stocking up—taking a little hunting trip. You won't be seeing me for a while."

As soon as Dandy had gone with his purchases Fred turned and gaped at Tim.

"Can you beat that?" he exclaimed. "There's two of 'em."

The following evening, when Tim had dropped in at the store for another chat, he was astonished to see Dorville's car draw up outside. Fred's eyes widened as Dandy came in.

"Why, Mr Dorville, I thought you were away on a hunting trip," he exclaimed.

"Changed my plan. I'm going canoeing instead. There's a favour you can do me, Fred," said Dandy.

"That's a mighty nice suit you're wearing," remarked Fred. "I don't remember seeing it before."

"Had it specially made by a city tailor," answered Dandy. "But Fred, can you cash a cheque for me? I'll have to hire a canoe and a tent at The Portage. They don't know me there. They'll want ready money."

"How much?" asked Fred.

"Can you make it five hundred dollars?" asked Dandy.

Fred whistled.

"Only just. Tomorrow is my day for my monthly trip in to the bank. If you'd left it any later I wouldn't have had that much in the place."

Dandy wrote his cheque and received the money. When he had gone Fred looked at Tim.

"You know something I'd never noticed before?" he asked.

"About Dandy being left-handed?" replied Tim.

"You never miss a thing, do you?" chuckled Fred. "And I thought I was being smart. Just the same, I never knew before that he was a southpaw."

The following morning Tim started on a long patrol

which took him away from the post for two days. When he returned, tired and hungry, two men were waiting for him. One was Fred, angry and excited, the other was Sergeant Harding from headquarters, looking dour.

"I've been robbed—five hundred dollars!" choked Fred. "The bank wouldn't pay out. Dorville's account is nearly empty and in any case the signature is a forgery. You know who that character was who got the money from me? John Doe, Dorville's double."

"What makes you so sure?" demanded Tim.

"It's plain when you come to think back," insisted Fred. "Remember how he made out he'd changed his plans? And how he was dressed differently. And then about his being left-handed? We were both surprised at that."

Sergeant Harding looked sharply at Tim.

"Corporal Morgan, am I to understand that you noticed all these things about the man and yet didn't suspect anything?" he demanded sharply. "It looks to me as if you have been guilty of serious carelessness."

"Let's get down to Dorville's cabin," was all Tim said.

THEY drove out to the cabin in Tim's car. When Tim pushed the door open they found Dandy Dorville, a gag over his mouth, roped to the stove-pipe in the middle of the room.

In spite of his predicament, Dandy still managed somehow to retain most of his polished, well-groomed appearance, although his hair was rumpled and his face and clothes smeared with soot and dirt from the stove.

Tim hastily removed the gag. "What happened?" he demanded.

"I thought you were never going to get here," snarled Dandy. "You're even slower than the city police. I've been stuck here three days, unable to move or utter a sound. John Doe came here. He held me up—"

"He impersonated you at my store," cried Fred. "Took five hundred dollars off me for a dud cheque—"

TIM had been glancing round the cabin. He spotted, among other things, the bottle of shaving cream, partly used.

"Don't excite yourself, Fred," he said soothingly. "I don't think your money is far away."

"What are you trying to say?" fumed Dandy. "Get me out of this mess."

"How did you manage to tie yourself so well?" asked Tim. "It's quite a trick. Must have taken a lot of practice. But then, you had plenty of time. It's so quiet here you must have heard my old car when we were still a long way off."

"I don't know what you're talking about!" fumed Dandy. "I tell you John Doe was here three days ago and he—"

"Don't go into that routine again," begged Tim. "There never was any John Doe."

"No John Doe?" gasped Fred. "But—"

"He almost had us believing it," chuckled Tim. "Using his left hand to make the writing look forged was a clever touch, but his habits let him down."

He ran his hand round Dandy's smooth chin.

Continued on page 10

TRICK TIME for Rowntree's Gumsters ★★★★★★



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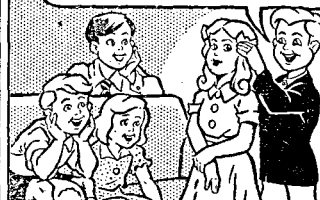
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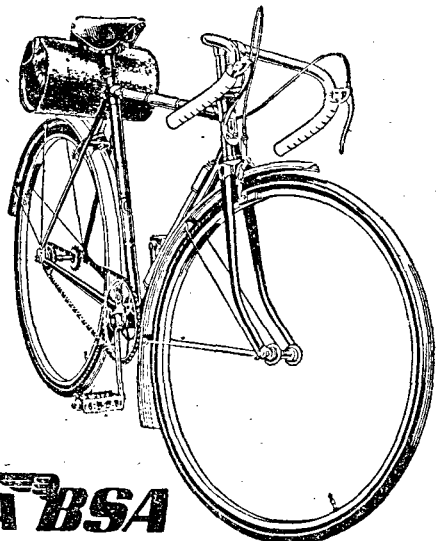
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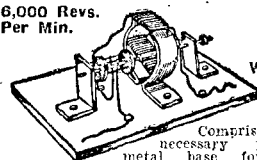
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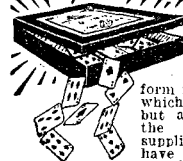
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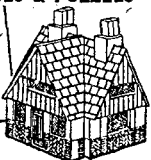
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Ball Games and Blinking

DID you know that your ability at cricket or tennis may depend on how rapidly you blink?

Scientists have known for some years that blinking is good for the eyes, relieving strain and fatigue and cleansing the eyeball. And recently they discovered that not everyone blinks at the same rate. Although most people blink twenty times a minute—each blink lasting one-third of a second—others blink as slowly as five times a minute.

Obviously, slow blinkers have far fewer "black-out" periods than more rapid blinkers, and Dr R. W. Lawson of Sheffield University believes that they make the best players at games which involve a swiftly-moving ball. Hobbs, Hammond, and Bradman were all in this class. Too many blinks at a critical moment may cause a player to lose sight of the ball and result in either a broken wicket or a dropped catch.

Rapid blinking is even more disastrous in tennis. Even one blink could make a player lose sight of the ball. Perhaps the reason why so many women make good tennis players is because they tend to blink more slowly than men.

Some people blink forty or fifty times a minute, and Dr Lawson says that these are the people who never attain great skill at any game no matter how much they practise.

A high blinking rate also makes for dangerous driving, and is a hindrance to scientists who have to take accurate measurements of moving objects. It can be reduced by increased illumination and good spectacles, or even by intense concentration, but if concentration is too heavy it may mean greater fatigue and eye-strain later.

Gold Medal For Sir John Barbirolli

ONE of the greatest honours in the world of music, the Royal Philharmonic Society's gold medal, has been awarded to Sir John Barbirolli. The medal was instituted in 1871, originally for services to the Society, and Sterndale Bennett was the first to receive it; now it is given for services to music generally. Among the distinguished names of those who have received the award are Brahms, Paderewski, Clara Butt, Casals, Sir Thomas Beecham, and William Walton.

It has been arranged to make the actual presentation to Sir John Barbirolli during a concert to be given by the Hallé Orchestra at the Albert Hall on December 13.

MORE ALUMINIUM

A NEW continuous-type aluminium rolling mill which will increase British production of sheet aluminium by more than one third has been opened at Rogerstone, near Newport in Monmouthshire.

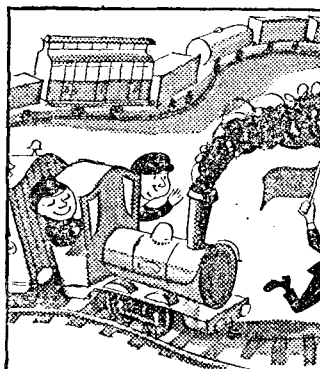
It is one of the largest industrial projects completed in Britain since the war, and has taken four years to build. The various processes reduce an ingot of one and a half tons to an aluminium sheet 1-7000th of an inch thick. The mill's yearly production is expected to reach fifty thousand tons.



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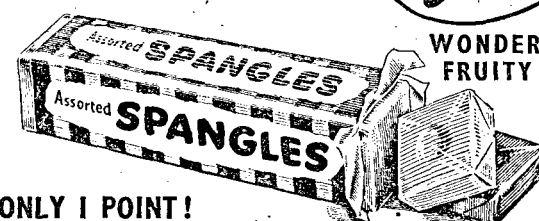


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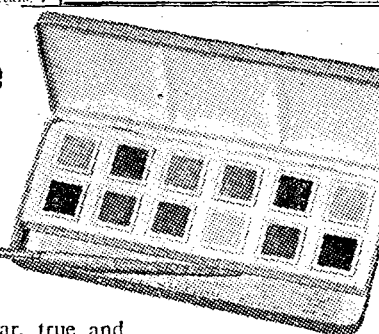
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